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SENATE MEMORIAL 6

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Eric G. Griego

A MEMORIAL

SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY UNITED STATES SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN TO
SECURE FULL FUNDING FOR THE FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
FUND.

WHEREAS, the land and water conservation fund is the
principal source of federal dollars for protecting land in
America's national parks, forests, refuges and other public
landscapes and for ensuring recreational opportunities for
Americans in every state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, in establishing the fund, congress recognized the
importance of protecting lands that have significant natural,
recreational and scenic attributes and of developing lands and
facilities for outdoor recreation at state and local levels;
and

WHEREAS, federal funding has protected critical areas

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1 across New Mexico's federal lands, including El Malpais,
2 Petroglyph and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks national monuments;
3 Valles Caldera national preserve; El Camino Real de Tierra
4 Adentro national historic trail; Orilla Verde recreation area;
5 Chaco Culture national historical park; Sevilleta national
6 wildlife refuge; the Cibola, Lincoln, Carson, Santa Fe and Gila
7 national forests; and many others; and

8 WHEREAS, over one thousand grants, spread across every New
9 Mexico county and totaling nearly forty-one million dollars
10 (\$41,000,000), have been made through the federal fund's
11 stateside program; and

12 WHEREAS, these grants have been matched with state and
13 local funds to plan, construct and enhance parks, playgrounds,
14 recreational trails, ball fields, pools and other recreational
15 facilities in communities across the state; and

16 WHEREAS, funding for designation of and access to
17 recreational lands and facilities is important to New Mexico's
18 economy because these lands attract tourists from around the
19 world; create jobs in retail, tourism, guiding, outfitting and
20 other sectors; contribute to a quality of life that draws
21 businesses and retirees to settle in New Mexico; and provide
22 for the health and well-being of people who enjoy the
23 recreational opportunities afforded by these lands and
24 facilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the land and water conservation fund is

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1 authorized at a level of nine hundred million dollars
2 (\$900,000,000) per year, which money is derived largely from
3 treasury receipts stemming from federal Outer Continental Shelf
4 oil and gas leases; and

5 WHEREAS, the fund has been chronically shortchanged in the
6 annual budget and appropriations process, with revenues
7 collected for its funding regularly diverted to other purposes;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, full funding has been appropriated only once in
10 the forty-five-year history of the fund, and while the past two
11 years have seen an increase in funding, the three hundred five
12 million dollars (\$305,000,000) appropriated this year is still
13 only one-third of the authorized level; and

14 WHEREAS, this chronic diversion of revenues has resulted
15 in a huge backlog of unmet funding needs for land protection
16 and outdoor recreation across federal public lands and the
17 state and local parks and recreational facilities; and

18 WHEREAS, full and dedicated funding is needed to help New
19 Mexico communities conserve their clean water, clean air,
20 livable communities and high quality of life; to benefit local
21 economies; to protect natural, cultural and scenic heritage;
22 and to provide access to outdoor recreation today and for
23 future generations; and

24 WHEREAS, United States Senator Jeff Bingaman, on November
25 6, 2009, introduced the Land and Water Conservation

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1 Authorization and Funding Act of 2009 to provide for full and
2 dedicated funding of the land and water conservation fund to
3 ensure an adequate and permanent investment in America's
4 natural, cultural and recreational heritage;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that it support efforts by Senator Jeff Bingaman
7 to secure full funding for the federal land and water
8 conservation fund and that it invite the rest of the New Mexico
9 congressional delegation to join in this worthy effort; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation.